

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Veterans Affairs Seal 1

§508

*ELECTRONIC AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE*

SECTION 508 ACCESSIBILITY TESTING AND TRAINING CENTER

OUR MISSION

Provide accessible services, conformance testing solutions and innovative strategies in implementing the goals and objectives of the Section 508 legislation while helping to increase awareness of accessibility issues and programs for internal and external VA stakeholders.

ACCESS FOR EVERYONE:

Creating opportunity for others by ...

Providing data that is comparable to that by federal employees who are not individuals with disabilities unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency and allowing individuals with disabilities, who are members of the and use of information and data that is comparable to that provided to the public who are not individuals with disabilities

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794d), requires that when Federal agencies procure, develop, maintain, or use electronic information technology (EIT), federal employees with disabilities have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access and use by federal employees who are not individuals with disabilities unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency. The law requires the development of standards to establish a minimum level of accessibility that will be enforceable through Federal procurement regulations, establishes a complaint procedure, and institutes new agency reporting requirements.

The Section 508 Accessibility Testing and Training Center (T&TC) is an ergonomically designed working environment located on the C-Level in the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO). The T & TC uses advanced testing solutions to ensure that all EIT is accessible to individuals with disabilities. The VA is promoting Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. By appointment only, it is open

and accessible to all employees at the VA who have an interest in observing Section 508 testing in progress and viewing a number of the accessible EIT products utilized during testing.

HISTORY SECTION 508

Why must federal employees be aware of Section 508?

✎ Section 508 requires Federal departments and agencies that develop, procure, maintain, or use EIT to ensure that federal employees and members of the public with disabilities have access to and use of information and data, comparable to that of employees and members of the public without disabilities unless an undue burden would be imposed.

WHEN ID LAW COME INTO EFFECT?

August 7, 1998: The President signed The Workforce Investment Act including the Rehabilitation Act Amendments with an expanded and strengthened Section.

March 31, 2000: The Access Board issues the Notice of Rulemaking (NPRM) setting forth the proposed standards.

December 21, 2000: Final Section 508 standards were published in the Federal Register.

January 22, 2001: The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) was proposed to be amended by adding the Section 508 standards to procurement regulations.

April 25, 2001: The FAR Final Rule was published in the Federal Register.

June 21, 2001: Enforcement of Section 508 began.

VA SECTION 508 INFORMATION & RESOURCES

For more information about Section 508, training or testing accessible electronic and information technology (EIT) products:

**Call Section 508 Accessibility Testing and Training Center at
202 273-6543**

The Department of Veterans Affairs

www.va.gov

Section 508

www.section508.gov

United States Department of Justice

www.usdoj.gov

The Access Board

www.access-board.gov

Federal Acquisition Regulations

<http://www.arnet.gov/far>

VA Office of Information Technology

<http://www.va.gov/oit/cio/foia/guide.asp>

The Rehabilitation Act (Section 508)

<http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/act.htm>

Closed Caption FAQ

<http://www.robson.org/capfaq/index.html>

Veterans Affairs Central Office

Enterprise Architecture

Section 508 Accessibility Testing and Training Center

810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room C10-A

Washington, DC 20420